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FM CNO WASHINGTON DC//N1//

TO NAVADMIN

BT

UNCLAS PERSONAL FOR COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS AND OFFICERS IN
CHARGE FROM OLIVER //N00000//

NAVADMIN 030/99

MSGID/GENADMIN/NPC-832//

SUBJ/NAVY VACCINATION PROGRAM//

REF/A/DOC/DODINST 6205.2//

REF/B/DOC/DOD DIRECTIVE 6205.3//

REF/C/DOC/BUMEDINST 6230.15//

REF/D/DOC/SECNAVINST 6230.4//

REF/E/DOC/MILPERSMAN 6320-010//

REF/F/DOC/MILPERSMAN 1910-142//

REF/G/DOC/MILPERSMAN 1910-402//

REF/H/DOC/MILPERSMAN 1910-140//

REF/I/DOC/MILPERSMAN 1910-404//

REF/J/DOC/OPNAVINST 1920.6A//

NARR/REFS A THROUGH C DISCUSS DOD/NAVY REGULAR AND BIOLOGICAL WARFARE

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DEFENSE IMMUNIZATION PROGRAMS. REF D IMPLEMENTS DON ANTHRAX
VACCINATION PROGRAM. REF E IS MILPERSMAN ARTICLE ON IMMUNIZATION
WAIVERS. REFS F THROUGH I ARE MILPERSMAN ADSEP ARTICLES. REF J IS
OFFICER ADSEP INSTRUCTION.//

RMKS/1. FOR YEARS, OUR ACTIVE AND RESERVE FORCES HAVE BEEN
REQUIRED TO RECEIVE PERIODIC VACCINATIONS TO ENSURE OUR MEMBERS'
HEALTH AND WELFARE AROUND THE WORLD AND IN COMBAT. REFS A THROUGH D
DOCUMENT THE MANDATORY ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM, WHICH HAS BEEN
SUCCESSFULLY IMPLEMENTED AMONG MANY FLEET UNITS. TO DATE, MORE THAN
30,000 NAVY PERSONNEL HAVE RECEIVED THE FIRST SHOT; HOWEVER, THERE

ARE SEVERAL MEMBERS WHO HAVE REFUSED TO BE INOCULATED. RECENTLY, BOTH CINCPACFLT AND COMUSNAVCENT HAVE ISSUED EXCELLENT GUIDANCE WITHIN THEIR RESPECTIVE AORS REGARDING THE ANTHRAX VACCINATION PROGRAM AND STEPS TO ADDRESS THE SITUATION OF A SERVICEMEMBER WHO REFUSES INOCULATION. IN RESPONSE TO NUMEROUS QUERIES FROM THE FLEET, AND USING MANY OF THE POINTS FROM CINCPACFLT'S AND COMUSNAVCENT'S MESSAGES, THE FOLLOWING GUIDELINES ARE PROVIDED FOR USE IN ADDRESSING SITUATIONS IN WHICH MEMBERS REFUSE INOCULATIONS, INCLUDING ANTHRAX. THESE GUIDELINES ARE EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY AND WILL BE INCORPORATED IN A FUTURE CHANGE TO REF E.

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2. AS WITH ANY OTHER REQUIRED VACCINATION PROGRAM, COMMANDERS, COMMANDING OFFICERS AND OFFICERS IN CHARGE ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PROPER ADMINISTRATION OF THE PROGRAM, INCLUDING THE PROVIDING OF EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS, COMPLYING WITH DOCUMENTATION REQUIREMENTS AND TAKING APPROPRIATE ACTION IF SERVICEMEMBERS REFUSE TO BE VACCINATED. COMMANDERS WILL USE INDIVIDUAL DISCRETION AND MAKE AN INDIVIDUAL DECISION REGARDING WHAT IS APPROPRIATE IN EACH CASE.

A. EDUCATION. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON LEADERSHIP TO ENSURE THAT ALL SERVICEMEMBERS RECEIVE FULL AND COMPLETE INFORMATION CONCERNING MANDATORY VACCINATIONS, INCLUDING ANTHRAX. IT SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED THAT THE ANTHRAX VACCINE HAS BEEN APPROVED FOR USE BY THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, HAS BEEN USED ROUTINELY FOR DECADES, AND HAS A SUBSTANTIAL BODY OF MEDICAL RESEARCH SUPPORTING ITS SAFETY AND EFFECTIVENESS. THE GOAL IS TO PROVIDE RELEVANT INFORMATION IN A NON-CONFRONTATIONAL MANNER AND ALLOW TIME FOR RELUCTANT SERVICEMEMBERS TO MAKE A REASONED DECISION CONCERNING THEIR PARTICIPATION. WITH THIS APPROACH, THE VAST MAJORITY OF SERVICEMEMBERS WILL PARTICIPATE WILLINGLY IN THE PROGRAM. THIS PERIOD OF EDUCATION MAY LAST FROM SEVERAL MINUTES TO SEVERAL WEEKS, DEPENDING ON THE NATURE OF THE INDIVIDUAL'S QUESTIONS AND THE

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JUDGMENT OF THE COMMANDER.

B. VACCINATION PROCEDURES. IT IS CRUCIAL TO DOCUMENT ALL VACCINATIONS PROPERLY. THE ANTHRAX PROGRAM, IN PARTICULAR, IS LONG-TERM AND DOCUMENTATION INTENSIVE. OUR PEOPLE DESERVE TO HAVE THEIR VACCINATIONS DOCUMENTED ACCURATELY AND COMPLETELY. PERSONNEL WHO REFUSE VACCINATIONS SHOULD BE PROVIDED ADDITIONAL INFORMATION TO ALLAY FEARS AND CONCERNS. ONCE THE COMMAND HAS DONE ALL THAT IT CAN TO ANSWER A SERVICEMEMBER'S QUESTIONS AND HAS PROVIDED SUFFICIENT TIME FOR AN INDIVIDUAL TO PARTICIPATE IN THE VACCINATION PROGRAM, THE SERVICEMEMBER SHOULD BE LAWFULLY ORDERED TO RECEIVE THE VACCINATION. IN NO CASE SHOULD SERVICEMEMBERS BE FORCIBLY VACCINATED AGAINST THEIR EXPRESSED DESIRES.

C. DISCIPLINARY AND ADMINISTRATIVE ACTION. SERVICEMEMBERS WHO DISOBEY LAWFUL ORDERS TO RECEIVE MANDATORY VACCINATIONS, INCLUDING ANTHRAX, AND FAIL TO OBTAIN A WAIVER PER REF E, MAY SUBJECT THEMSELVES TO THE FOLLOWING ADMINISTRATIVE AND DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS: FORMAL PAGE 13 COUNSELING/WARNING, NONJUDICIAL PUNISHMENT, COURT-MARTIAL, AND/OR PROCESSING FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SEPARATION BY REASON OF MISCONDUCT. COMMANDERS AND COMMANDING OFFICERS, AS ALWAYS, ARE FREE TO CHOOSE THE APPROPRIATE COURSE OF ACTION,

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IF ANY, THAT IS BEST SUITED TO A PARTICULAR SITUATION. SERVICEMEMBERS WHO HAVE BEEN SUBJECT TO DISCIPLINARY ACTION MAY BE GIVEN AN ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN THE PROGRAM.

COUNSELING AND EDUCATION MAY CONTINUE. IF THE SERVICEMEMBER DECIDES TO RECEIVE VACCINATION AFTER DISCIPLINARY ACTION HAS TAKEN PLACE, COMMANDERS MAY CONSIDER SUSPENDING, MITIGATING, REMITTING OR SETTING ASIDE PUNISHMENT.

3. SERVICEMEMBERS WHO HAVE RECEIVED PUNISHMENT FOR DISOBEYING ORDERS TO RECEIVE MANDATORY VACCINATIONS MAY BE PROCESSED FOR ADMINISTRATIVE SEPARATION FOR MISCONDUCT DUE TO COMMISSION OF A SERIOUS OFFENSE IF ADEQUATE DOCUMENTATION IS SUBMITTED. HOWEVER, PROCESSING IS NOT MANDATORY, AND THIS MEASURE SHOULD ONLY BE USED AS A LAST RESORT. IF THIS COURSE IS DEEMED APPROPRIATE, PROCESS ENLISTED PERSONNEL IAW WITH REFS F AND G AND OFFICERS IAW REF J. LEAST FAVORABLE CHARACTERIZATION WILL BE GENERAL UNDER HONORABLE CONDITIONS. SERVICEMEMBERS MAY BE PROCESSED FOR OTH DISCHARGE ONLY IF THEY HAVE ADDITIONAL SEVERE MISCONDUCT THAT CONSTITUTES A BASIS FOR PROCESSING. REFS H THROUGH J REFER.

4. OUR VACCINATION PROGRAM IS CRITICAL TO OUR WARFIGHTING READINESS, AS WELL AS A TOOL IN ENSURING THE SAFETY AND WELFARE OF OUR

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PERSONNEL. THE ABOVE GUIDELINES PROVIDE YOU THE DISCRETION AND
LATITUDE NECESSARY TO EFFECTIVELY MAINTAIN GOOD ORDER AND DISCIPLINE
AT YOUR COMMANDS. POC FOR ENLISTED SEPARATIONS IS CDR JOHNSON
(NPC-832) AT (901) 874-4431/DSN 882 OR E-MAIL P832@PERSNET.NAVY.MIL
OR P83Q@PERSNET.NAVY.MIL. POC FOR OFFICER SEPARATIONS IS LCDR KLIPP
(NPC-834D) AT (901) 874-4420/DSN 882.
5. RELEASED BY VADM D. T. OLIVER, N1.//

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